

### **REMARKS**

Claims 1-7 and 9-26 are now pending in the application. Claims 1-4, 6, 11-13, 20-21 and 23-25 are amended herein. Claims 8-10 are cancelled. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

#### **REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 101**

Claims 8-10 stand rejected under U.S.C. § 101, as directed to non-statutory subject matter. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Notwithstanding and solely in the interest of expedited prosecution, claims 8-10 are cancelled. Accordingly, this rejection is moot.

#### **REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claims 11, 12, 24 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Shimada et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,790,797). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Notwithstanding, Applicant amends the claims. Support for the claim amendments can be found at least at page 20, line 21 and at page 20, line 28-page 21, line 2. No new matter is added.

Claim 11 calls for a device monitoring method for a plurality of devices in a network. The method comprises: causing the plurality of devices to periodically monitor a state of each other; and causing any of the plurality of devices which finds a change in the state of another of the plurality of devices to: notify at least one of another device of

the plurality of devices and a device management server about the change; and share information about the change with the plurality of devices.

Claim 12 calls for a device monitoring method for a plurality of devices in a network. The method comprises: causing the plurality of devices to periodically monitor each other for abnormalities; and causing any of the plurality of devices which finds an abnormality of another of the plurality of devices to: notify at least one of another device of the plurality of devices and a device management server about the abnormality; and share information about the abnormality with the plurality of devices.

Claim 24 calls for a device comprising a device monitoring function for: monitoring at least one other device among a plurality of devices in a network for changes in state; notifying another device among the plurality of devices in the network of the changes in state of the at least one other device; and sharing with the another device information about the changes in state.

Claim 25 calls for a device comprising a device monitoring function for: monitoring at least one other device among a plurality of devices in a network for an abnormality; notifying another device among the plurality of devices in the network of the abnormality of the at least one other device; and sharing with the another device information about the abnormality.

In contrast, Shimada distinguishes among the monitoring devices and the transmission devices. Please see the Abstract. As such, Shimada does not teach a configuration wherein the plurality of devices in the network monitor each other and notify and share with each other information about the changes in the state or abnormalities of the plurality of devices. That is, the claimed monitoring device is not

defined as a predetermined device and the common devices can share information about a change in state or an abnormality with each other.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 11, 12, 24 and 25 are respectfully requested.

#### **REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claims 1-6 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Natalini (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2002/0095269) in view of Terada (U.S. Pat. No. 6,167,046). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Notwithstanding, Applicant amends the claims. Support for the claim amendments can be found at least at page 20, line 21 and at page 20, line 28-page 21, line 2. No new matter is added.

Claim 1 calls for a device monitoring system connected with a plurality of devices via a network wherein at least some of the plurality of devices are provided with a device monitoring function for: monitoring each other for changes in state; notifying each other of the changes in state; and sharing with each other information about the changes in state.

Claim 2 calls for a device monitoring system connected with a plurality of devices via a network wherein each of the plurality of devices is provided with a device monitoring function for: monitoring each other for an abnormality; notifying each other of the abnormality; and sharing with each other information about the abnormality.

Claim 3 calls for a device monitoring system comprising a plurality of devices connected to a network and a device management server which manages the plurality of devices wherein each of the plurality of devices is provided with a device monitoring

function for: monitoring each other for changes in state; notifying at least one of the device management server and other devices among the plurality of devices of the changes in state; and sharing with each other information about the changes in state.

Claims 4 calls for a device monitoring system comprising a plurality of devices connected to a network and a device management server which manages the plurality of devices wherein each of the plurality of devices is provided with a device monitoring function for: monitoring each other for an abnormality; notifying the device management server and other devices among the plurality of devices of the abnormality; and sharing with each other information about the abnormality.

In contrast, Natalini distinguishes among the monitoring devices and the transmission devices. Please see the Abstract. Similarly, Terada teaches devices that monitor defined devices, for example, at least one of a logically close and physically close device. Please see Col. 9, lines 31-35. As such, neither Natalini nor Terada teach a configuration wherein the plurality of devices in the network monitor each other and notify and share with each other information about the changes in the state or abnormalities of the plurality of devices. As such, the combination of Natalini and Terada cannot render the claims obvious.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 -4 are respectfully requested.

Claims 5 and 6 depend from claim 1 and should be allowable for at least the same reasons as set forth above. Claim 10 is cancelled.

Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimada et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,790,797) in view of Natalini (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2002/0095269). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 13 depends on claim 11 and should be allowable for at least the same reasons as set forth above.

Claims 14-16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimada et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,790,797) in view of Terada (U.S. Pat. No. 6,167,046). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 14-16 depend on claim 11 and should be allowable for at least the same reasons as set forth above.

Claims 7, 8 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Natalini (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2002/0095269) in view of Terada (U.S. Pat. No. 6,167,046) and further in view of Krzyanowski (U.S. Pat. No. 6,792,323). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 7 depends on claim 1 and should be allowable for at least the same reasons as set forth above. Claim 8 is cancelled. Claim 26 depends on claim 24 and should be allowable for at least the same reasons as set forth above.

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimada et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,790,797) in view of Krzyanowski (U.S. Pat. No. 6,792,323). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Notwithstanding, claim 9 is cancelled.

Claims 17 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimada et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,790,797) in view of Smyers (U.S. Pat. No. 6,430,629). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 17 and 18 directly or

indirectly depend on claim 11 and should be allowable for at least the same reasons as set forth above.

Claims 19-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimada et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,790,797) in view of Smyers (U.S. Pat. No. 6,430,629) and further in view of Gubbi (U.S. Pat. No. 6,434,113). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 19-21 depend on claim 17 which depends on claim 11 and should be allowable for at least the same reasons as set forth above.

Claim 22 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimada et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,790,797) in view of Smyers (U.S. Pat. No. 6,430,629) and further in view of Gubbi (U.S. Pat. No. 6,434,113) and further in view of Moran (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2002/0177448). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 22 depends on claim 17 which depends on claim 11 and should be allowable for at least the same reasons as set forth above.

Claim 23 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimada et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,790,797) in view of Smyers (U.S. Pat. No. 6,430,629) and further in view of Krzyanowski (U.S. Pat. No. 6,792,323). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 23 depends on claim 17 which depends on claim 11 and should be allowable for at least the same reasons as set forth above.

## **CONCLUSION**

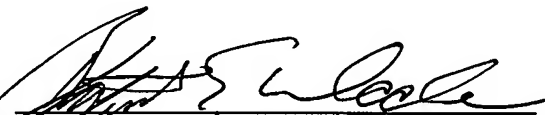
It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is

believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: Dec. 10, 2007

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